



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

PUBLIC LIAISON E-NEWSLETTER

www.state.gov | Volume 4 | Issue 5 | March 15, 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

- ☐ ["Opinion Space"](#) - A New Way to Foster a Global Dialogue on Foreign Affairs
- ☐ International Women's Day
- ☐ Haiti Donors' Conference Announced
- ☐ Secretary Clinton's Travel to Latin America
- ☐ 2009 Annual Country Reports on Human Rights
- ☐ Briefing on Release of the 2010 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report
- ☐ 40th Anniversary of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty
- ☐ Future of US Public Diplomacy
- ☐ UN World Conference on Women in Beijing
- ☐ Secretary's Office for the Global Partnership Initiative partners with NASA on LAUNCH: WATER
- ☐ Winners Announced - "Change Your Climate, Change Our World"

WHERE IS THE SECRETARY?



TEXT THE SECRETARY



Stay Connected with State.gov

DIPNOTE
BLOG



Latest From DipNote Blog

FLU.GOV

Know what to do
about the flu.

VISIT FLU.GOV

SHARE THIS WIDGET

Feature

OPINION SPACE: *Fostering a Global Dialogue*

"Opinion Space will harness the power of connection technologies to provide a unique forum for international dialogue. This is an example of what we call 21st century statecraft and an opportunity to extend our engagement beyond the halls of government directly to the people of the world. I can't wait to be a part of this exciting new conversation." -Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

WASHINGTON, DC, Mar. 15 -- The Department of State today launched "[Opinion Space](#)," an interactive site hosted on the Department of State's web site that seeks to foster global conversations on foreign affairs. [Opinion Space](#), developed jointly by the Department of State and the University of California at Berkeley's Center for New Media, is accessible to anyone around the world. Opinion Space invites users to share their perspectives and ideas on U.S. foreign policy in an innovative visual "opinion map" that will illustrate which ideas result in the most discussion and which ideas are judged most insightful by the community of participants.

To join the discussion on Opinion Space visit: <http://state.gov/opinionspace> and see where you stand with respect to others around the world. You can already see the emerging opinion map in response to the first discussion question: "If you met U. S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, what issue would you tell her about, why is it important to you, and what specific suggestions do you have for addressing it?" Future discussion questions will be on a range of foreign policy priorities. [Read More](#)

Welcome to Opinion Space 2.0
2,945 opinions collected.

The U.S. Department of State is interested in your perspectives and input on a series of important foreign policy questions. "Opinion Space" is a new discussion forum designed to engage participants from around the world.

Every participant chooses a "point of view" on a global opinion map. Your position is not based on geography or predetermined categories, but on similarity of opinion: those who agree on basic issues are neighbors, those who are far apart have agreed to disagree. You can instantly see where you stand in relation to other participants; by reviewing their comments, you help the community highlight the most insightful ideas.



INTERNATIONAL

International Women of Courage Award

WASHINGTON, DC, Mar. 10 -- Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and First Lady Michelle Obama hosted the Annual International Women of Courage Award Ceremony at the US Department of State. The Secretary of State and First Lady were joined by Melanne Vermeer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues and two special guests, Andrea Jung (Chairwoman and CEO of Avon) and Reese Witherspoon (Avon's Global Ambassador), who announced the new Global Women's Leadership Fund, a public-private partnership with the State Department that provide grants to NGOs working to meet the critical needs of the world's women and girls.

[Read More](#) | [Video](#)

The United States and United Nations Announce the Haiti Donors' Conference



WASHINGTON, DC, Mar. 4 -- The United States and the United Nations, in cooperation with the Government of Haiti, and with the support of Brazil, Canada, the European Union, France, and Spain will co-host a ministerial International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti at the United Nations in New York on March 31, 2010. The goal of the conference is to mobilize international support for the development needs of Haiti to begin to lay the foundation for Haiti's long-term recovery.

[Read More](#)

Secretary Clinton's Travel to Latin America

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton traveled to [Uruguay](#), [Argentina](#), [Chile](#), [Brazil](#), [Costa Rica](#), and [Guatemala](#) February 28-March 5, 2010. In Uruguay, Secretary Clinton attended President Jose Mujica's inauguration on March 1, before traveling to Buenos Aires for a bilateral meeting with Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner. Secretary Clinton then traveled to Santiago where she met with President Michelle Bachelet and President-elect Sebastian Pinera. On March 3, Secretary Clinton met with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Foreign Minister Celso Amorim in Brasilia. Secretary Clinton also participated in a live Townterview (interview + town hall) at Zumbi dos Palmares University, Brazil's only Afro-Brazilian institute of higher learning. In Costa Rica on March 4, Secretary Clinton was the keynote speaker at the Pathways to Prosperity in the Americas Ministerial Meeting and met separately with President Oscar Arias and President-elect Laura Chinchilla. In Guatemala, Secretary Clinton met with leaders of Central American countries and the Dominican Republic to discuss issues of mutual interest. The Secretary concluded her trip with a visit to Guatemala City where she met with Guatemalan President Alvaro Colom.



[Travel Page](#) | [Interactive Travel Map](#) | [Answers From Text the Secretary](#) | [Photos](#) | [Flickr](#) | [Travel Diary](#)

INSIDE THE BELTWAY

2009 Annual Country Reports on Human Rights

"[F]or the last 34 years, the United States has produced the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, providing the most comprehensive record available of the condition of human rights around the world."

-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton (March 11, 2010)

WASHINGTON, DC, Mar. 11 -- Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton hosted a briefing to discuss the rollout of the State Department's 2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. "...this event is extraordinary because of its connection to who we are as a country and to the universal aspirations we seek to make real through our foreign policy," she said. The United States has produced the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, for the past 34 years, providing the most comprehensive record available of the condition of human rights around the world. Secretary Clinton said, "These reports are an essential tool -- for activists who courageously struggle to protect rights in communities around the world; for journalists and scholars who document rights violations and who report on the work of those who champion the vulnerable; and for governments, including our own, as they work to craft strategies to encourage protection of human rights of more individuals in more places." [Read More](#)



40th Anniversary of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty

"Rules must be binding. Violations must be punished. Words must mean something," a statement made by President Obama said last year in Prague.

-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

WASHINGTON, DC, Mar. 5 – In a statement to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton highlighted the Obama Administration's efforts to renew the international consensus embodied in the NPT. Secretary Clinton stated: "[The] Special Representative of the President for Non-Proliferation Susan Burk as well as other Diplomats have been traveling the globe for support. The Non-Proliferation Treaty set up as a framework of norms and rules to curtail the spread of nuclear weapons, and since then, many states have abided by the standards that the NPT embodies." [Read More](#)

Future of US Public Diplomacy

WASHINGTON, DC, Mar. 5 -- Judith McHale, Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on International Operations and Organizations, Human Rights, Democracy, and Global Women's Issues on the state of America's public diplomacy, the framework that the Obama Administration is developing to more closely align the Department's activities with the nation's foreign policy objectives, and the challenges we continue to face. [Read More](#)

Briefing on Release of the 2010 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report

WASHINGTON, DC, Mar. 1 -- David T. Johnson, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, briefed members of the press on the annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, a comprehensive assessment of the worldwide illegal drug and transnational money laundering situation. The report covers calendar year 2009 and its conclusions reflect the Department's analysis of the international drug control and money laundering environment during the last calendar year. [Read More](#) | [International Narcotics Control Strategy Report](#)

GLOBAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE NATION

15th Anniversary of the UN World Conference on Women

"The status of the world's women is not only a matter of morality and justice. It is also a political, economic, and social imperative." Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton (March 12, 2010)

UNITED NATIONS, NY, Mar. 12 -- Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered remarks in honor of the 15th anniversary of the UN World Conference on Women in Beijing. "Fifteen years ago, delegates from 189 countries met in Beijing for the Fourth World Conference on Women. It was a call to action – a call to the global community to work for the laws, reforms, and social changes necessary to ensure that women and girls everywhere finally have the opportunities they deserve to fulfill their own God-given potentials and contribute fully to the progress and prosperity of their societies," she said. Secretary Clinton then gave several examples of how women worldwide are working hard to do their part to improve the status of women and girls and in doing so, improving the status of families, communities, and countries. [Read More](#)



Office for the Global Partnership Initiative partners with NASA on LAUNCH: WATER

WASHINGTON, DC, Mar. 11 -- The US Department of State announced the LAUNCH: WATER campaign, the first in a series of forums to take place at NASA's Kennedy Space Center March 16-18, 2010. The campaign, in partnership with NASA, NIKE, Inc. and the U.S. Agency for International Development, aims at identifying, showcasing, and supporting innovative approaches to humanity's sustainability challenges. The forum will showcase collaborative sessions designed to help propel these innovations forward through an action and solution-focused agenda. With the support of founding and resource partners, LAUNCH: WATER will host a collaborative sustainability forum to leverage the collective expertise and networks of 40 LAUNCH Council Members and 10 international water innovators — each representing a unique and compelling approach in clean-tech, science, policy, activism, and education. [Read More](#) | [10 Innovators and their Work](#) | [LAUNCH: Water](#)

Global Online Video Contest: "Change Your Climate, Change Our World"

WASHINGTON, DC, Mar. 5 -- The US Department of State announced four winners of its online video contest, "Change Your Climate, Change Our World." Bruna Monteiro do Nascimento, age 17, of Recife, Brazil and three others were Grand Prize winners of the Global Online Video Contest: "Change Your Climate, Change Our World," launched by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and the Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs on November 17, 2009. 168 eligible videos were submitted from over 50 countries. Contestants were challenged to relate their own actions or actions of others to make a positive difference in a local community and thus contribute to a better world. [Read More](#)

This email has been sent to you from the U.S. Department of State's Office of Public Liaison. For more information about us [CLICK HERE](#).

To UNSUBSCRIBE please REPLY and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.